

VLR 6/17/98  
NRHP 9/24/98

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District

other names/site number VDHR File # 049-5001

### 2. Location

street & number About 11.5 Acres at Jct of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road not for publication ☐  
city or town N/A vicinity ☐  
state Virginia code VA county King and Queen code 097 Zip 23085

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

Date

Aug. 5, 1998

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  8  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  7  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u> 17  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) district primarily governmental

Cat: Government _____	government office _____
Government _____	courthouse _____
Government _____	correctional facility _____
Commerce/Trade _____	restaurant _____
Domestic _____	single dwelling _____
Commerce/Trade _____	specialty store _____
Education _____	school _____
Domestic _____	hotel _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government _____	government office _____
Government _____	courthouse _____
Recreation and Culture _____	museum _____
Domestic _____	single dwelling _____
Social _____	clubhouse _____

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

Late Victorian  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick, concrete \_\_\_\_\_

roof : asphalt, metal \_\_\_\_\_

walls : brick, wood \_\_\_\_\_

other : granite \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance: c. 1750-1940

Significant Dates 1828

1864

1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
See continuation sheets

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #           

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #           

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository: Archives of King and Queen Historical Society, King and Queen Courthouse, VA

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property About 11.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 18 334380 4170810    2 18 334590 4170780

3 18 334220 4170510    4 18 334280 4170600

☒ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jack Spain Jr., President

Organization: King and Queen County Historical Society date April 9 ,1998

street & number: c/o Hunton & Williams, 951 East Byrd Street,

telephone 804-788-8434

city or town : Richmond state VA zip code 23219

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.:see continuation sheet

Color slides: see continuation sheets

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 7\_\_\_ Page 1\_\_

The King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District is located in rural King and Queen County and has been the site of the courthouse for the county since its creation in 1691. The district is composed of several resources divided into two groups, those within a small courthouse compound (partially delineated by a brick wall), and those without. Within the compound are the courthouse, clerk's office, and county jail. These buildings are in brick and are laid out in close proximity to one another. A granite monument and brick wall, both later additions, complete the compound. The buildings outside the compound relate to the activities of a typical rural courthouse community: an hotel/tavern building, a school, a specialty store building, (currently used to house state offices) and a residence on the site of another hotel/tavern. This district has remained largely intact up to this time, possibly because of its isolated and rural location.

**Courthouse** This building is cruciform in plan with a cross gabled roof clad in synthetic shingles and a 1957 flatroofed addition (accommodating the clerk's office) to the west. The original core of the building is thought to be colonial.<sup>1</sup> It was originally a frame rectangular building 45'x22' (based on a 1702 bond in Essex County directing that the Essex courthouse be built to the dimensions of the King & Queen Courthouse). The courthouse was burned in 1828 and again in 1864. Sometime between 1866 and 1895 the building was expanded to 64' x 22' and the west wing of 32x23 was added. The east vestibule was added in 1895 according to the record of a construction contract in the minutes of the board of supervisors. Evidently in making this improvement, the workmen covered up Purbeckian stone, which was a very special stone used in the late 1600s and early 1700s for entrances and sometimes the floors of special houses and buildings, including courthouses.<sup>2</sup> The stone was uncovered in the early 1940s when the courthouse floor had to be replaced.

The north, south and west elevations have central exterior end chimneys which pierce the cornice at the peak of the gable of the projecting wings. The west projecting wing has a window, 4/4, to the north of the chimney balancing the connection to the 1957 addition. The north and south wings do not have windows on their north and south elevations,

<sup>1</sup> John Peters and John Peters's conversation with Ed Chapell of Colonial Williamsburg.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Smith, the current county administrator reports Purbeckian stone was a very special stone. It was imported from England and could only be obtained for special buildings. Unlike cobblestones and brick it was not used as ballast but was shipped on order. After discovery under the floor in the early 1940s and storage in the courthouse until 1996 when the new courthouse was completed in 1997 Mr. Smith had the Purbeckian stone which was about 18" square and 4" thick imbedded in concrete in the lawn in the front of the new courthouse. He placed a sundial in the center so that these pieces of Purbeckian stone could be permanently and publicly displayed as a visible connection to the original courthouse. Mr. Smith tells the story of his inquiries to Dr. Gerald Johnson, a noted geologist on the faculty of William and Mary College about the proper spelling and history of Purbeckian stone and how to make sure he had the real thing. Dr. Johnson told him to pour a simple acid, such as vinegar, on the stone and if it fizzled, then he had Purbeckian stone. Mr. Smith dutifully brought vinegar from home and tried it on the first piece and, much to his dismay nothing happened. He tried the second piece and it fizzled the instant the vinegar hit it. He later learned that the first piece had a clay scale which prevented the vinegar from getting to the stone. After cleaning, all of the stones fizzled.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 2

, respectively. The façade has a roundheaded masonry opening which has been infilled with glass and double leaf glass doors creating a vestibule behind which are older wooden double leaf doors. On either side of the entrance within the central projecting pavilion are 9/9 double hung sash windows with shutters. Within the gable of the façade's projecting pavilion is a lancet window with a simple tracery pattern. Flanking the pavilion on the façade are two 9/9 windows. 6/6 sash windows are on the north and south elevations of the central projecting entrance pavilion.

The courthouse is a contributing building for the district.

**Old Clerk's Office** The building is a one-story brick rectangular plan, gable ended building. The roof is standing seam metal with an interior chimney which pierces the ridgeline to the east of center. There is a simple box cornice. It is laid in Flemish bond on the façade and three course American bond on the east, south, and west elevations. The façade has central double leaf metal doors topped by a four light transom and flanked by paired 8 light casement windows, each set topped by an eight light transom. The east elevation has one window opening with is shuttered closed. The south elevation has casement windows identical to the facade in placement and configuration. The west elevation has one set of paired casement windows with transom identical to the others, centered beneath the gable.

The building is shown on both the 1840 plat and the 1941 Fary Survey, so it must have been in its present location since at least the 1828 fire. The back of the office is right against the boundary line of the original one-acre 1691 parcel as shown on the 1840 plat, so it must have been built with that line in mind. Based on the 1840 plat, it must have been rebuilt on its original site after the 1864 fire.

The interior of the clerk's office previously had two vaults, one at each end of the building. This description is confirmed by the short handwritten paper entitled "Specification-Clerks office King & Queen County", (evidently from the 1866 reconstruction ) which calls for "4 windows in the clerk's office, a chimney fire place, two vaults with one window each, stone doors and window frames, iron doors to vaults ..." In the 1930s this vault was taken out and concrete put on the interior of the walls.

The clerk's office was moved from this building in 1957 when the new wing on the courthouse was added for the clerk. The building became the county historical archive and small museum maintained by the King and Queen County Historical Society. The clerk's office is a contributing building for the district.

**Jail** This is a rectangular one story brick building laid in 6 course American bond with a hipped standing seam metal roof. The entrance is centered on the façade and flanked by barred 4/4 wooden sash double hung windows. The single leaf solid metal door is covered by a projecting triangular pediment with a standing seam gable, which, in turn is supported by diagonal wooden upbraces. The north and south elevations have single, centered, barred 4/4 wooden sash double hung windows and the west elevation has a pair of similar windows. The building has twin interior end chimneys with corbelled caps which echo the corbelled brick cornice of the building itself. A round central vent hood pierces the roof.

Behind the jail and semi detached is a circa 1890 auxiliary structure, now outfitted (though not currently used), as

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 3

restrooms. Entrances on the north and south elevations are below grade and protected by a concrete retaining wall. Both the north and south elevations have twin entrances. The building is rectangular in plan, brick and laid in irregular courses of American bond. Double rowlock courses serve as headers over the doors and single rowlock courses serve as headers above paired windows on the west and east elevations. The gable roof is in standing seam metal with a simple cornice with gable end returns.

The first jail is thought to have been in the southwest corner of the original one-acre tract, and the next jail was in the northeast corner. The remains of this second jail may have been what the county uncovered when it had to build a drain line across the property to serve the new county courthouse. The 1840 plat shows the jail at its present location. The jail was burned in 1864, along with the courthouse and clerks office, and rebuilt on the same site. The jail is a contributing building for the district.

**The Confederate Monument.** This monument was erected in 1912 in memory of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors of King and Queen County. It is a granite obelisk on a composite base. The base is composed of one course of rough faced ashlar with a bevel rising to a heavily molded foot supporting a square block with a smaller molding above. The block has relief carvings of a cannon, an anchor, and crossed rifles on the west, south, and east sides, respectively. The north side of the block has a relief of crossed swords with an inscription above. The inscription reads "To the Confederate soldiers and sailors of King and Queen County, Virginia 1861-1865; Fate denied them victory but gave them the love and veneration of their native land, the wonder and admiration of the world." The obelisk itself is plain and smooth save the north side which has a relief of flag wrapped around a pole with the letters CSA entwined together in relief above it. The monument is surrounded by a simple iron fence approximately 18 inches high mounted on a course of rough faced ashlar laid in a square approximately 18 inches from the base of the monument. The shaft is 25' high and the base is 6'6" square. There is a simple gate center on the north side of the fence. It is a contributing object for the district.

**Wall** This retaining wall was erected in the 1930s as a WPA project. It is laid in common bond and is thought to be in the place of an older wooden fence with stiles. It is capped with molded brick and openings in the wall are flanked by square brick piers with molded brick caps. The wall is a contributing structure for the district.

*49-5001-0002*  
*casement* **Fary Tavern** This is a three story asphalt shingled gable roofed building. The first two stories of the original core of the building are brick and the third story (added in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century) and the shed roofed addition to the west are frame. A hipped standing seam metal roofed porch extends across the entire facade at the second story. The porch is three bays across with a simple balustrade and turned columns with carved Victorian brackets. The porch rests on three broad brick piers. The facade has two entrances at ground level and two from the porch. The third floor of the facade has two wooden sash double hung 6/6 windows. The building has two interior brick chimneys along the west elevation of the original portion of the building. To the north and south of the chimneys are wooden sash 4/4 double hung windows. The two story frame addition to the west of the original core has two entrances on its west elevation.

This building was earliest shown in an 1802 insurance policy and is thought to have used as a tavern and hotel from



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 7 \_\_\_\_ Page 4 \_\_\_\_

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its earliest days. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was owned by the Purcells who operated it as a hotel for those coming to the courthouse. The Purcells added a third floor to the building. They may have added a porch at the same time to make the entrance on the second floor. It was sold by the Purcells to R. Garnett Fleet who also operated it as a hotel. The Fleets added the shed onto the back of the building. The Fleets sold the building to Lloyd Moore who also operated it as a hotel. The Moores sold the building in 1921 to Mr. and Mrs. Fary who continued to operate a hotel until they retired in 1941 and sold the building to the county. When the county bought the Fary Tavern in 1941, the building was in its present condition with two exceptions. Some years after the county purchased the property the county was concerned about the danger of ice on the steps and removed the stairs which led from the yard to the porch and installed new stairs to the porch from beneath the porch as they are today. The house also contained an English basement at the time of the purchase, but the county filled in the English basement shortly after they purchased the property.

This was the only building not burned by the Union troops in 1864. It is a contributing building for the district.

**Allen Store.** This is a 1 1/2 story gable roofed frame building. The gable front projects forward and is supported by two columns to form a porch. The entrance is recessed and features a single leaf door flanked by full length 5 light sidelights and an 8 light transom. Paneled wall sections with windows above angle from the façade to the entrance and the façade features paired 2/2 windows on either side of the entrance. Within the projecting gable are paired 4/4 windows. The building has a small central interior chimney. There are entrances to the building on both the north and south elevations--the north via a single bay pedimented porch supported by Doric columns and the south via a door topped by a projecting pediment supported by brackets. There are four windows on the north elevation and two on the south, all but one window, (the small 4/4 to the east of the north elevation's entrance placed above the sill level of the other first floor windows perhaps lighting a stair) are 2/2 sash. There are 2 2/2 sash windows on the first floor of the west elevation and three evenly spaced 2/2 windows in the gable. The heavy cornice features returns on the west elevation. It was used at one time as a garage, but has been used as a health service facility for a number of years. It is a contributing building for the district.

**Old School Building** This building was built by the county in about 1909 and was the first two-room school in the area. It is a one story frame building with gable ends and a central cross gable. A small addition was added to the south and both the original building and the addition were later extended to the west. A small cinderblock addition was added to the west even later. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The façade of the original section has a projecting central pavilion which forms the cross gable. This pavilion has a recessed central entrance via paired doors. The entrance is flanked by 2/2 sash double hung windows and topped by a single window which is shuttered shut. On the façade and flanking the projecting pavilion are two additional 2/2 windows. The addition façade has paired 6/6 windows. There is a handicapped accessible entrance on the south elevation in the addition. With the exception of the small cinderblock addition, the structure is clad in aluminum siding. It is a contributing building for the district.

**Allen House** This is a three bay 2 1/2 story frame house with a hipped roof. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the building structure is clad in synthetic siding. There is a wrap porch supported by doric columns that stretches

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 7 \_\_\_\_ Page 5 \_\_\_\_

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across four bays of the façade and a single bay on the east elevation. The entrance is in the central bay of the facade. It is via single leaf door topped by a transom. The entrance is flanked by 2/2 windows. The second floor has three 2/2 windows positioned above the windows and door on the first floor. There is hipped dormer with paired 2/2 windows centered on the façade. The house has a dentil cornice at the eaves and surrounding the dormer. The dormer has wooden fishscale shingles on its cheeks. The building was originally square in plan but has been augmented by a wing projecting north and a later addition to the east of the north wing. The house sits back from the road leading into the district and has several mature trees and a road trace in the front yard. The house is on the site of the Martin tavern burned in 1864, however archaeological studies to locate the exact location of the tavern have not been conducted. The property includes seven auxiliary buildings or structures: a garage, a corn crib, a dairy shed, a smoke house, a hen house, a barn, and a windmill, all of which are considered contributing for this nomination as is the house itself.

The district as a whole retains a high degree of integrity. Much of the historic material remains, particularly within the courthouse precinct. The district is visually cohesive. It is surrounded by wooded lots and cultivated fields which gives the district the sense of being set apart. Most of the district can be seen from a single vantage point. With the exception of the county courts and administrative complex, there are no non-contributing or non-historic elements which intrude on the district.

The pattern of development is clearly evidenced by the primary courthouse precinct within the colonial revival wall and the non-governmental buildings which lie in close proximity to the courthouse precinct. The nearby modern courthouse and county administrative office complex (1997) sits back from the road. Its brick exterior and low-slung massing in conjunction with its siting and setback keeps the complex from overwhelming the district. Its presence is yet another chapter in the continuing governmental and court presence in the area. Circulation networks are few due to the relatively small size of the district. However, the principal road remains as does a road trace along the front of the Allen house property. The 1930s wall was built along existing fence lines and openings are said to conform with the location of stiles. Paths within the courthouse precinct have been maintained.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section   8   Page   6  

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Statement of Significance

The King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District marks the site of a county courthouse which has existed at this site since the formation of the county in 1691. The other parts of the district present a view of the spatial relationships, vistas and uses of property which are associated with a rural courthouse community - a range of uses including: a tavern, a store, a two-room school, and a residence, the latest dating from the first quarter of this century. This courthouse community has remained substantially intact up to this time, possibly because of its rural and isolated setting. Despite over 300 years of change and upheaval, court functions are still carried out in this district and the area retains a great deal of integrity. The district qualifies for listing on the National Register under criteria A & C. It reflects the evolution of a rural courthouse community from a primarily legal and governmental precinct to a larger community reflecting larger social trends. It also reflects the impact of larger events, such as the Civil War, and their effect on the community. The King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District represents a distinguishable entity the whole of which communicates its significance more effectively than its individual components.

Prior to the organization of King and Queen County, the county court of New Kent held some of its meetings north of the Mattaponi River in what is now King and Queen County. It is believed to have met in a house owned by Edmund Tunstall which was just east of the present courthouse site. <sup>2</sup> Tunstall owned 604 acres of his father Richard Tunstall's 1667 patent. Upon the organization of the County in 1691, Edmund Tunstall and his wife, Catherine, gave a one-acre parcel to the county for a courthouse. The deed was later given to the County and is still available. The Courthouse was built on the site by Larkin Chew a carpenter of King and Queen County (later Spotsylvania) in 1700.

The original King and Queen Courthouse was frame and measured 45 feet by 22 feet. Information from a bond recorded in Essex county in 1702 says that the Essex courthouse was to be built by Larkin Chew to the same specifications as the King and Queen County Courthouse. It is not clear when the King and Queen Courthouse was rebuilt in brick, but it must have been before the revolution, as studies have dated part of the fabric of the walls as colonial<sup>3</sup> and the original brick foundations measure 45' by 21', almost the same as the original frame building.

At the turn of the eighteenth century, King and Queen was the second largest county in Virginia with a population of 4,306. Many came to the county attracted by its soils which were conducive to the growth of sweet scented tobacco. The county was not a major transportation route between the established areas to the south and the growing Rappahannock River settlements in that land transportation routes were poor and interrupted by numerous streams and swamps. Indeed much of the early transportation routes were water based. Thus the county was somewhat isolated and inwardly focused. Like many rural communities, the county courthouse was the center of governmental and legal action, and often a hub of social activity of the entire county. As with most county courthouses, the King and Queen Courthouse spawned a variety of activities, directly and indirectly related to court functions. As the county grew, the

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<sup>3</sup> John Peters' conversation with Ed Chapell of Colonial Williamsburg

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 7

courthouse area grew to reflect the uses and functions associated with a courthouse district.

"As part of the legislative act formally creating King and Queen, the twelfth day of every month was designated for county court sessions. This official court day was changed by law in 1705 to the fourth Monday of the month and again in 1736 to the second Tuesday of every month. Residents looked forward to these regular sessions, for men from the whole county gathered on court day. In addition to witnessing the court in session, an event accompanied by much pomp and ceremony, the male attendees had ample opportunities for politicking and discussing business, as well as for casual socializing--much of this taking place in the local taverns after the court had adjourned." <sup>4</sup>

The Fary's Tavern building had been used as a hotel and tavern since at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and is a typical use associated with the courthouse community. This was the only building not burned by the Union troops in 1864, evidently because they were told that someone in the hotel was sick with smallpox. Hotels and taverns were located near courthouses because lawyers, litigants and witnesses would need a place to stay during a "term of court" when cases on the docket would be tried. The term often lasted a week or more. <sup>5</sup>

The Martin Tavern site was the site of another tavern and hotel noted on the 1840 survey. The 1840 plat refers to the Hart's Tavern at this site across the road from the Courthouse, however it was operated as a tavern and hotel by Martin in the mid nineteenth century. A wall around the Tavern site allowed people staying in the tavern to sit on the lawn and enjoy "afternoon tea" without notice from neighbors. It was burned by the Union troops in 1864 along with the courthouse and other buildings. <sup>6</sup>

Court Days remained a big event until the 1920s, when the custom of hearing cases on one specific day of the month was changed.

Throughout the late eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century the courthouse was threatened by political actions, and natural disasters. In 1789, residents of upper King & Queen County petitioned the state legislature to be incorporated as part of Essex County. "The formal argument they forwarded-one that had been successful a century earlier in forming new counties-was that their courthouse was too far away." <sup>7</sup> Although the petition was denied by the legislature, the groundwork had been laid to continue to challenge the boundaries of the county and the effectiveness of its courthouse, based on geography.

<sup>4</sup> Kaplan, Barbara p 44

<sup>5</sup> The building has subsequently been used as office space for the county school board and is currently vacant. The County and the King and Queen Historical Society plan to restore this building and operate a county museum and archives in it.

<sup>6</sup> Archaeological studies could do much to confirm the written and oral record of the Martin Tavern site. The only evidence of previous construction on the current residential site is a road trace that crosses the property south of the house, between it and the courthouse precinct.

<sup>7</sup> Kaplan, Barbara p 78

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 8

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In December of 1801 another petition was presented to the legislature, backed by many of the upper King and Queen residents involved in the 1789 petition. This petition sought to re-draw completely the boundaries of Essex and King & Queen counties. "The petitioners noted that because both counties were long and thin, it was difficult for many citizens in either county to travel the long distances to their respective courthouses. How much better it would be, they argued, if the dividing line could be drawn "from River to River" (from the Mattaponi to the Rappahannock ) and the courthouses relocated to the approximate center of each of these newly formed regions. If this were done, 'it is conceived that no person in either County would be more than 12 or 15 miles from his Courthouse.' "<sup>8</sup> Petitioners suggested that existing courthouses be sold and new courthouses built at the central point of each new county. <sup>9</sup>

Three days later, angry residents of lower King and Queen counter petitioned the legislature and claimed that the proposal to redistrict and relocate the courthouse would be confusing, inconvenient and expensive. There was no guarantee that appropriate land could be found or that funds would be available for new construction. Additionally there was the risk of losing or damaging court documents during and move and transition. The redistricting effort was defeated and the courthouse remained in its location.

The Courthouse was burned in 1828 and rebuilt. Also the clerk's office was burned, damaging records and the General Assembly approved a petition for \$600 to transcribe damaged records. The Clerk's Office and Jail are both shown at the same spots presently located on the 1840 survey, so they probably date from at least the rebuilding after the 1828 fire and would represent an early courthouse complex which remains intact.

One last attempt to redistrict the county came in December of 1835 with a petition to form a new county from portions of Upper King and Queen, Essex and Caroline Counties. The basis for this petition was that it was impossible for residents in the northern portion of the county to travel 35 miles to court and return in a single day. Many residents risked fines rather than be away from home for several days, traveling to and from court. The petition was denied.<sup>10</sup>

The courthouse, jail and clerk's office were all burned in 1864 by Union forces in retaliation for the killing of Union Colonel Dahlgren by the King and Queen Home guard, after he attempted a raid on Richmond. After the county board meet for a time at Stevensville, the General Assembly authorized an election whether to move the county seat away from the old location. The citizens voted not to move the county seat. The courthouse, jail and clerk's office were promptly rebuilt in 1866 at a cost of \$4650, apparently on the prior foundations, based on the 1840 survey and the provisions of the board resolution which called for "rebuilding" the courthouse, jail and clerk's office.

In 1997 a new courthouse was built adjacent to the King and Queen Courthouse Green. The complex is set back from the road. It is constructed in brick and its low slung massing belies the volume of the building which houses county

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<sup>8</sup> Kaplan p 78

<sup>9</sup> Kaplan p 78

<sup>10</sup> Kaplan p 79

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 9

---

administrative functions and county court. Even with this new building, many court functions still operate in the small brick building across the road and the area continues to function as the legal and governmental hub of the county after over 300 years.

Many additional activities and buildings grew up around the courthouse in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They included stores, a school, social and memorial activities (particularly those organized by women), and housing.

Several stores have been in operation in the courthouse area. William Beverly Bird and Spottswood Bird owned a store there beginning in the 1850s. Spottswood Bird then went into partnership with William Allen in the 1890s. Later Claiborne H. Oliver joined the business and he and R. D. Allen owned a store in King and Queen Courthouse which was operated by Oliver until 1980. The store was removed when the new courthouse was constructed.

Another store building site previously contained several small buildings in a strip. There was a garage, a blacksmith shop, an ice cream shop and a barber shop, all of which would be especially busy on court days, typical of a courthouse community. These buildings burned in the mid 1920s. Mr. Allen then moved the present building to the site. He had started it some years before on his property across the road, but it had never been completed. It was first used as a garage operated by Colin Cartin, then for residential use, but has been used as a state health office since the 1940s.

In 1904 a group of women organized to erect a memorial to the Confederate dead of King and Queen County. They chose a design and raised the necessary funds for the monument by 1912-1913. It was dedicated in a community ceremony attended by many King and Queen Confederate veterans. The effort was similar to efforts in other southern communities, as often Confederate monuments were organized and funded by women's organizations. The location of the monument within the courthouse precinct testifies to the importance of memorializing the community's war dead.

The King and Queen Elementary School building was built by the county in 1909, opened in 1910, and was the first two-room school in the area. It replaced a one-room school. Grades one through seven were taught in the new building. There was a movable partition down the middle of a large room, so that it could be separated into two rooms. By 1932 it was vacant with classes meeting in other buildings.

The King and Queen Women's Club was established in 1931. In 1932 it became associated with the Virginia Federation of Woman's Clubs. The Club has provided a venue for women to meet each other and to raise funds for community outreach programs. It met in private homes and schools throughout the county until 1932, when club officers petitioned the school board to use the now vacant King and Queen Elementary school. In 1934, the Woman's club raised \$1,000 and purchased the building outright.

The site of the Martin Tavern was purchased after the 1864 fire by [Edna] Purcell and about 1911 was sold to Dr. William Hoskins from Newport News who retired to the area and built the present house generally on the site of the old Martin Tavern. It was the first house built in the community by a "contractor." Its significance is that it not only typical of a residence located in a courthouse community, but it preserves the spatial relationship of the prior hotel and tavern which was located on this site across the road from the courthouse. The house was conveyed to Roland Allen in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 10

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1918 and has since been known as the Allen House and the road "Allen Circle".

The district as it is today continues to reflect the variety of activities associated with a rural courthouse community of long standing. The courthouse precinct continues to house some of the county's court activities and the King and Queen Historical Society operates the Clerk's office and hopes to restore the Fary Tavern. The Confederate monument still stands prominently within the courthouse precinct. The King and Queen Elementary School, (now the Woman's Club), the Allen House, and the Allen Store continue in uses that reflect the activity of the courthouse area while communicating their previous uses thus representing several layers of interpretation of the long and rich history of the site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 9 Page 11

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Fary's Tavern  
Martin's Tavern site

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 10 Page 12

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UTM References

5 18 334360 4170630  
6 18 334190 4170690  
7 18 334230 4170760  
8 18 334360 4170700

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

This description refers to a map on the required scale of 1" to 200' prepared by the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission entitled "King and Queen Courthouse Area" and hand-dated April 7, 1998 (the "Map") included with this application, together with a plat entitled "Plat of Property standing in the name of King and Queen County being The Well Lot" dated November 14, 1995, prepared by Mitchell-Wilson Associates, P.C., West Point, Va and recorded in Book 156, page 757 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of King and Queen County (the "Well Lot" and the "Well Lot Survey"). The Map is prepared using tax parcel numbers and description which are only approximate and do not represent the actual boundary descriptions, so this must be kept in mind in reviewing the lines as shown on the Map.

Start at a point "A" on the Map in the east line of Courthouse Landing Road and go west to the south edge of a gravel roadway leading from Courthouse Landing Road behind the Old Clerk's Office (Parcel 36), and following such roadway around the Fary's Tavern and the Courthouse and Jail to a point where the edge of the gravel roadway touches the south line of the Well Lot as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then along the south line of the Well Lot to a point 10' west of the right of way of Allen Circle (State Route 681), then along such line in a northerly direction to a an intersection with the south line a of 20' right of way as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then west along such line to the beginning of the property of the Woman's Club as shown on the Well Lot Survey, then south along such line between the property of the Woman Club (Parcels 37 and 38) (the "Woman's Club Lot") and the Well Lot to a concrete marker found, a corner of the Woman's Club Lot, then west along the line between the Woman's Club Lot and the property of King and Queen County to the end of the cleared land and the beginning of the woods at the back of the Woman's Club Lot, then northerly along such edge of the cleared land and the beginning of the woods to the beginning of the land of the Trustees of the Immanuel Episcopal Church (Parcel 40)(the "Church Lot"); then south and east along the line between the Woman's Club Lot and the Church Lot to the beginning of the land of Dorothy Allen Davis et al (parcel 39) (the "Store Lot"); then east along the line between the Church Lot and the Store Lot to right of way of Allen Circle (State Route 681) and north along such right of way to the intersection of Allen Circle with State Route 14, then east

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section 10 Page 13

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along the south right of way line of State Route 14 to the intersection of State Route 14 and the eastern leg of Allen Circle then along the eastern right of way line of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road to the Point of beginning.

**Justification of Boundary Line**

This boundary at the beginning includes the county-owned land on which the historic buildings are located. Care has been taken to exclude the County-Owned "Well Lot" and the adjacent County owned land south of the Woman's Club Lot, because they constitute the County's utility systems. The Well Lot has both the well which is the source of public water for the courthouse area as well as the communications tower for all of the county emergency services. The land south of the Woman's Club Lot has the drainage fields for the courthouse sanitary sewage system. The county necessarily requires freedom to meet and needs or requirements for the maintenance of these systems if state or federal moneys are involved. The exclusion of this land does not impair the full use of the historic buildings in the historic district, just as these buildings have been used for past.

From the county-owned land the district includes (1) the adjoining Store Lot (2) so much of the Woman's Club Lot as is open, (3) the lot between the public roads on which the Allen House and the Martin Tavern site are located, and (4) the county owned parcel (Parcel 36A) in front of the Allen House Lot. The boundaries are reasonable for all of the included buildings and structures. Since the county has constructed its new administration and lower courts building on the land east of the east leg of Allen Circle and Courthouse Landing Road, the historic district does not go east of such roads.

The lot of Immanuel Episcopal Church (Parcel 40 on the Map) is not included because the Church had already made its own application for historic landmark designation in its own right and prefers to pursue that designation. The Historical Society supports that application because, although not technically in the legal boundaries of the King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District, the two designations will together give appropriate registration to all of the buildings located in the courthouse area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

King & Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King & Queen County, Virginia

Section ~~PHOTO~~ Page 14

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All Photographs are of:  
King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District  
King and Queen County, Virginia  
VDHR File number 049-5001

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Allen store from S  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 1 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Allen House from S  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 7 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Women's Club from SE  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 2 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Fary Tavern from NE  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 8 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Clerk's Office from N  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 3 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Courthouse from SE  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 9 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Jail from NE  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 4 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Jail from E  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 10 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Courthouse from N  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 5 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Courthouse precinct, Fary Tavern from NE  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 11 of 11

Date: March 1998  
View Of: Women's Club from E  
Neg No: 16644  
Photo 6 of 11

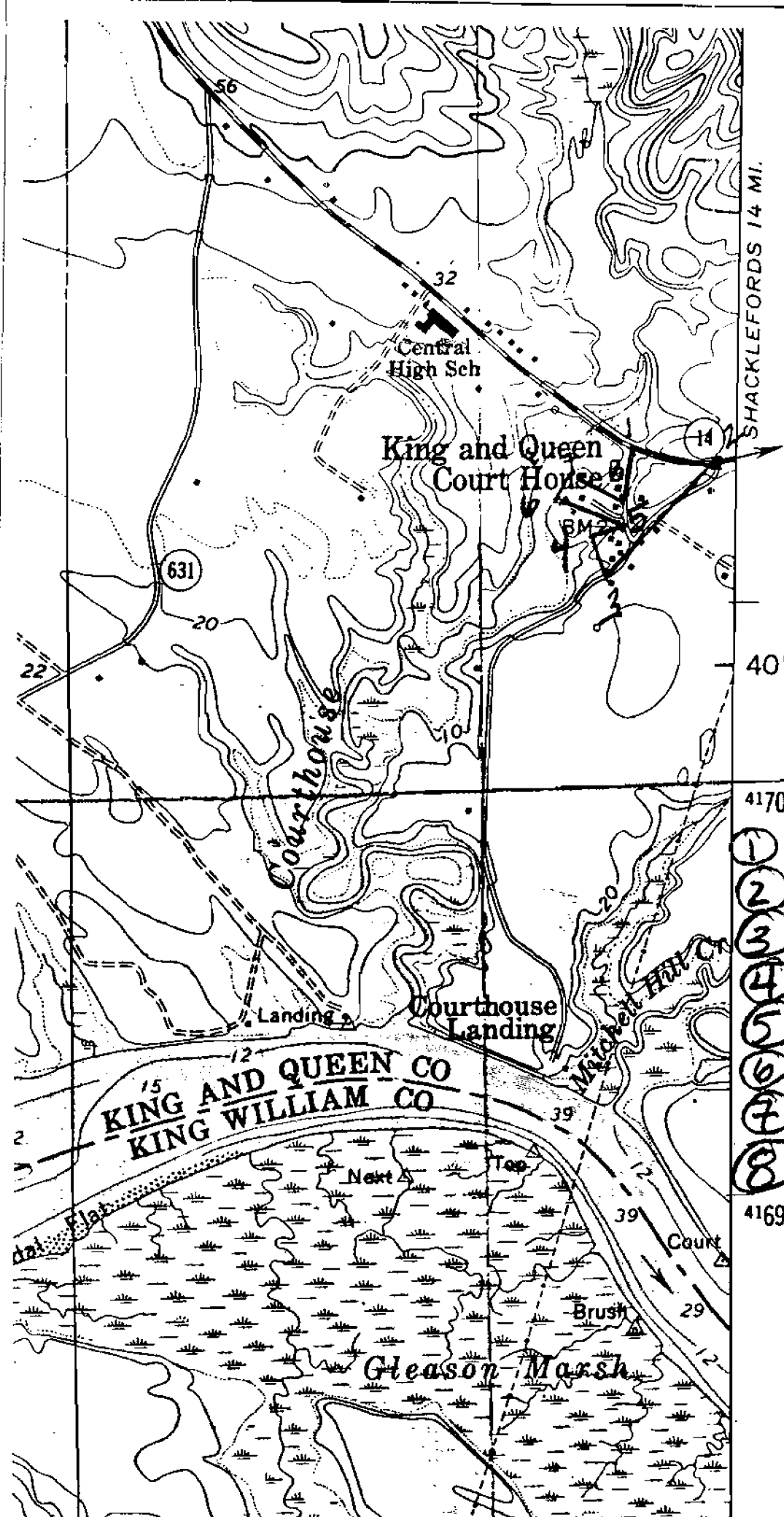
43

 **NWT Wetlands**

**Scale 1 : 2400**  
1" = 200'

APRIL 7, 1998

NOTE: BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE



KING & QUEEN  
COURT HOUSE  
GREEN  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT

VDHR # 049-  
5001

4170	① 18 334380	4170 810
	② 18 334590	4170 780
	③ 18 334320	4170 511
	④ 18 334280	4170 60
	⑤ 18 334360	4170 60
	⑥ 18 334190	4170 69
	⑦ 18 334230	4170 71
	⑧ 18 334360	4170 7

4169